



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 14, 1998

Ms. Sharon R. Sela  
Assistant City Attorney  
Criminal Law and Police Division  
City of Dallas  
Municipal Building  
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR98-0956

Dear Ms. Sela:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 115093.

The City of Dallas Police Department (the "department") received a request for an offense report concerning a theft that occurred on October 16, 1997 at a Service Merchandise store. You assert that the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and have reviewed the documents submitted.

Section 552.108, the "law enforcement exception," excepts from public disclosure information held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime if release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation or prosecution of crime. Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1). Generally, a governmental body claiming an exception under section 552.108 must reasonably explain, if the information does not supply the explanation on its face, how and why the release of the requested information would interfere with law enforcement. *See id.* §§ 552.108(a)(1), (b)(1), .301(b)(1); *see also Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977). You state that the requested information relates to a pending criminal investigation. Accordingly, we find that release of the requested information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *See Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976) (court delineates law enforcement interests that are present in active cases).

However, we note that "basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime" is not excepted from required public disclosure. Gov't Code § 552.108(c). Basic information is the type of information that is considered to be front page offense report information even if this information is not actually located on the front page of the offense

report. *See generally Houston Chronicle*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976); Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976). Thus, except for basic information, the requested information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108(a)(1). Although section 552.108(a)(1) authorizes you to withhold the requested information from disclosure, you may choose to release all or part of the information at issue that is not otherwise confidential by law. *See* Gov't Code § 552.007.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Yen-Ha Le  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

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Ref: ID# 115093

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Mark White  
703 Moseley Road  
Ennis, Texas 75119  
(w/o enclosures)